

REMARKS

Claims 4-6 and 8-16 remain herein. Claims 4, 5, 11-12 are amended.

1. Applicant's undersigned representative thanks the Examiner for the courteous telephone interview conducted on January 5, 2007.

2. Claims 11 and 12 were objected to for reciting "conductor mounting conductor mounting" instead of "conductor mounting." The claims are amended to cure this informality. Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

3. Claims 4-6, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Wells U.S. Patent 2,264,685.

Claims 4 and 5 as amended claim a plate member including a conductor mounting portion of the plate member comprising a substantially longitudinal portion configured for supporting a conductor. Wells discloses a built-up insulating structure including a plurality of ceramic insulators positioned between a top connecting member 2 and a lower connecting member 3. The Office Action alleges that Wells top connecting member 2 is analogous to the plate member claimed herein, and that top connecting member 2 includes a conductor mounting portion of the plate member comprising a substantially longitudinal portion of a conductor path, "implicitly" because the Wells apparatus allegedly includes a longitudinal conductor path through the insulator columns.

However, applicant has amended claims 4 and 5 to claim a plate member including a conductor mounting portion of the plate member comprising a substantially longitudinal portion

configured for supporting a conductor. Wells does not disclose or suggest that plate member (top connecting member) 2 includes any longitudinal portion configured for supporting a conductor, such as electrical power transmission lines. Indeed, Webb clearly states that the columns of insulators 1 are insulating, not conductive: “there is shown an insulating structure built up of a plurality of units, each of which includes a number of ceramic insulators 1 disposed between a top connecting member 2 and a lower connecting member 3.” Wells, page 1, col. 2, lines 8-13 (emphasis added). Wells does not disclose or suggest a plate member comprising a longitudinal portion configured for supporting a conductor; rather, an insulator is mounted to connecting member 2: “These insulators are secured to the top and bottom plates by means of bolts 4 and 5.” Wells, page 1, col. 2, lines 13-15. Also, Figs. 1 and 2 do not show any plate member including a conductor mounting portion of the plate member comprising a substantially longitudinal portion configured for supporting a conductor. Nor is the claimed plate member described anywhere in Wells. Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

4. Claims 8 and 11-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Wells in view of Locke U.S. Patent 872,569.

The Office Action relied on the alleged teachings of Wells as applied against claim 5. However, as explained above, Wells does not disclose or suggest a plate member including a conductor mounting portion of the plate member comprising a substantially longitudinal portion configured for supporting a conductor as claimed in applicant’s claim 5.

Locke also does not disclose or suggest a plate member including “a plate member including a conductor mounting portion of the plate member comprising a substantially longitudinal portion configured for supporting a conductor.” Locke, Fig. 1, shows electric

conductor 6 mounted on center pin 5, secured with tie wire 7. There is no disclosure or suggestion of a plate member including any portions configured for supporting a conductor.

For the foregoing reasons, neither Wells nor Locke discloses all elements of applicant's claimed invention, and neither of these references discloses anything which would have suggested applicant's claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in the art. Further, there is no disclosure or teaching in either Wells or Locke which would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or suggest applicant's presently claimed invention. For example, Wells discloses an insulating structure for supporting large electrical equipment such as a high-voltage electrode for use in atom "smashing" equipment, but Locke, 33 years older than Wells, discloses a system for supporting overhead power lines. For all the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claims 8 and 11-16.

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For the foregoing reasons, all claims 4-6 and 8-16 are now fully in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge or credit any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. Should the Examiner deem that any further amendments would be desirable in placing this application in even better condition for issue, he is invited to telephone applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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